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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

J2DM-7-60
8 January 1960

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, United States Intelligence Board

Subject: Sino-Soviet Disputes

1. On at least two occasions in recent weeks, the United States Intelligence Board has discussed the various indications of unharmonious relationships between the USSR and Communist China. The discussion has centered around the meaning of these disputes; that is, whether they connote a divergence in ideology or simply a disagreement as to the methods most suitable for attaining the ultimate Communist goal. The word "ideology" has itself been examined by USIB in an effort to assure that we are all talking about the same thing when we use the word.

2. It has been my understanding that the Intelligence Board was fully agreed on the following:

a. That "ideology" is to be taken in its literal dictionary sense, as a "body of principles" and hence that the word applies to the broad Communist objectives and theory.

b. That the Sino-Soviet disputes do not appear to involve a divergence on ideology, but on "the choice of paths to Communism" and possibly on relative stature between the two nations in interpreting Communist ideology.

c. That we would expect continued exacerbations of the sort now appearing between the two countries; but that there is no reason so far to conclude that the Red Chinese are departing from, or creating an aberration of, basic Communist ideology.

3. I continue to note, however, that drafts of NIE's produced by the Board of National Estimates refer to ideological disputes between Communist China and the USSR. My representatives to the Board, who present the points I have enumerated in the preceding two paragraphs, are unsuccessful in getting the word "ideology" removed in favor of a substitute such as "methodology" or "tactics." I therefore conclude that my understanding of the sense of the USIB discussions on this topic is erroneous or, alternately, that the BNE's understanding is erroneous. I would appreciate your clarifying this matter when convenient. I am sending a carbon copy of this memorandum to Ambassador Cumming for his information.

JCS and DIA review(s)
completed.

Robert A. Breitweiser
ROBERT A. BREITWEISER
Major General, USAF
Director for Intelligence

Copy to:

Ambassador Cumming

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